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Windows and Mirrors. [Original composition]

Gehman, Scott Harwood, D.M.A.
Rice University, 1991
RICE UNIVERSITY

WINDOWS AND MIRRORS

by

Scott Harwood Gehman

A THESIS SUBMITTED
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
DOCTORATE OF MUSICAL ARTS

APPROVED, THESIS COMMITTEE

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January, 1991
Abstract

Windows and Mirrors

by

Scott Gehman

"Windows and Mirrors" is an orchestral work in three movements: fast--slow--fast. The first movement alludes to elements of popular music styles used in dance bands, Latin rhythm bands and European jazz music and emphasizes rhythmic elements and the percussion section of the orchestra. The second movement is reminiscent of a passacaglia of the Baroque period, but instead of repeating the bass line, it repeats a chord progression. Placed over this music are various combinations of counterpoint and orchestral colors. The third movement, in rondo form, is in the style of free atonality and contains strong contrasts in its musical activity. After these contrasts are established, ideas from the first movement return and the music concludes with motives from both movements juxtaposed and intertwined. The title "Windows and Mirrors" does not refer to any specific program represented by the work; instead, the phrase alludes to a mental image of the creative process. Just as a house of mirrors creates novel shapes and proportions from existing forms, the act of composing creates changes in one's initial inspirations. As these develop from week to week, they spawn completely new ideas.
Windows
Windows
Windows
and
Mirrors
Mirrors
Mirrors

Instrumentation:

2 flutes; 2 oboes; 2 clarinets in Bb 2 bassoons
4 horns in F 2 trumpets in C 2 trombones 1 tuba
piano/ harpsichord strings
timpani & bass drum (1st mvt. only)
percussion 1: suspended crash cymbal, suspended ride cymbal, snare drum with brushes and sticks, tambourine, 3 tom-toms, maracas.
percussion 2: 2 congas, bongos, bass drum, claves, maracas, vibra-slap, vibraphone, chimes (g'), tambourine.
percussion 3: xylophone, marimba, vibraphone, celeste

Scott Gehman
October 26, 1990
suddenly faster  \( j = 112 \)